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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 001860

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/04/2015

TAGS: ECON EFIN PTER KU IQ

SUBJECT: DFI UPDATE FROM MFA LEGAL DEPARTMENT

REF: SECSTATE 59301

Classified By: DCM Matthew H Tueller, reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

¶1. (C) On May 4, 2005, Econ/C met with Mr. Ghanim Al-Ghanim, Director of the MFA Legal Department, to discuss the status of the \$78 million in frozen Iraqi assets (Reftel) that remain at Kuwait's mission to the U.N. Al-Ghanim confirmed that this money has not been transferred to the UNSCR 1483 Development Fund for Iraq account at the New York Federal Reserve Bank. He said at least one Kuwaiti company had a claim against the 1483 funds; he did not know the name of the claimant, the size of the claim nor the date it was presented. The MFA will complete its review of the claim in the new few weeks, he added. Al-Ghanim also said it was his understanding that Kuwait was prepared to withhold the amount of the claim and transfer the balance of the UNSCR 1483 money if the GOK found the claim to have enough merit for formal adjudication.

¶2. (U) Baghdad minimized considered.

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